

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SAM-01 IO-14 NIC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

DRC-01 /105 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0192

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01877

CINCEUR, CINCUSAFE, CINCUSAREUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE, GW

SUBJECT: TRANSIT TRAFFIC TROUBLES WRAPUP SUMMARY

SUMMARY: THE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT FRG STATE SECRETARY GAUS TOOK A MUCH HARDER LINE WITH GDR REPRESENTATIVE THAN HAS BEEN PUBLICLY REPORTED IN THEIR JANUARY 31 TALKS ON RECENT GDR ACTIONS ALONG THE TRANSIT ROUTES (SEE BERLIN 214, BONN 1778). THIS HAS HELPED EXPLAIN THE APPARENT UNWILLINGNESS OF FRG REPS AT LOWER LEVELS SUCH AS THE INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT COMMISSION TO ENGAGE THEIR GDR COUNTERPARTS URGENTLY ON THE ISSUE. IN THE BONN GROUP AND AT A FEBRUARY 4 PRESS CONFERENCE THIS SEEMING FRG RETICENCE WAS AGAIN APPARENT. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN THE JANUARY 31 FRG-GDR BILATERAL TALKS IN EAST BERLIN ON OTHER MATTERS (REPORTED SEPTEL), A CHANCELLERY SOURCE HAS TOLD US GAUS AND NIER HAD A PRIVATE EXCHANGE ON THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES. GAUS REPORTEDLY TOOK A HARD LINE, ASSERTING THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LOOKED UPON THE JANUARY 26 TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES AS A SERIOUS MATTER, AS A VIOLATION OF THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC AGREEMENT AND AS A MATTER WHICH, IF CONTINUED, COULD HAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE GDR OF SIGNIFICANT PROPORTIONS. NIER REPLIED THAT THE PROBLEM HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH TRANSIT TRAFFIC. IT HAD CONCERNED A LEGITIMATE SEARCH FOR CRIMINALS AND INVOLVED PROTECTION OF LIFE AND LIMB FOR TRAVELERS OF ALL SORTS IN THE GDR.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE GAUS ADOPTED A TOUGH STANCE AND DID NOT DISPLAY ANY ACCEPTANCE OF THE GDR POSITION. HE SAID THAT GAUS TOOK A MORE RESTRAINED PUBLIC POSTURE SINCE HE SAW NO POINT IN DRAMATISING THE SITUATION. THUS, WHILE GAUS SEEMED TO PLAY DOWN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE, HE WAS (AS IS THE CHANCELLERY) CONCERNED BY EVENTS ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES. ANOTHER GAUS-NIER SESSION HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 7 IN BONN AND GAUS WILL REPORTEDLY RAISE THE LATEST TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES OF FEBRUARY 1, MINOR THOUGH THESE APPEAR TO BE. GAUS IS NOT DISPOSED TO HAVE A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC COMMISSION BEFORE ITS NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 14. HE PREFERS TO HANDLE THE MATTER HIMSELF AT HIS OWN HIGHER POLITICAL LEVEL ON FEBRUARY 7.

3. AT THE BONN GROUP MEETING FEBRUARY 4, FRG REPS KASTRUP AND MEICHSNER CONFIRMED GAUS' DECISION NOT TO ASK THAT THE INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT COMMISSION BE CONVENED URGENTLY TO DEAL WITH THE EVENTS OF JANUARY 2nd -3rd. HIS DECISION FROM THE CHANCELLERY HAS APPARENTLY LED TO THE VERY RESTRAINED PUBLIC STANCE TAKEN THIS FAR BY FRG TRANSIT COMMISSION DELEGATION LEADER WULF, WHO, KASTRUP REPORTED, SIMPLY SAW NO REASON TO CHANGE AN EARLIER DECISION (BONN 1778) NOT TO PRESS FOR A MEETING WITH GDR REPS. SENATE REP MEICHSNER ADDED HE BELIEVED WULF ALSO PROBABLY WAS GUIDED BY DESIRE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE ALL THE FACTS IN HAND BEFORE COMMITTING FRG TO SESSION WHERE DETAILED EVIDENCE WAS SURE TO BE REQUIRED. (COMMENT: IN THIS CONNECTION, THE FRG AUTHORITIES ARE NOW TRYING TO IMPROVE THEIR TRAFFIC INCIDENT REPORTING PROCEDURES WHICH ARE PRESENTLY HAPHAZARD AT BEST. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE EXPERIENCED IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS IS THAT THE FRG SIMPLY DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAS GONE ON ALONG THE TRANSIT ROUTES. HOPEFULLY, THIS

MATTER WILL BE CLEARED UP SOON.) US AND FRENCH REPS
HAVE STRESSED NEED FOR CONCRETE INFORMATION ON ANY
TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES IN RECENT BONN GROUP MEETINGS.

4. THE RECENT TRANSIT TRAFFIC TROUBLES DOMINATED FRG
SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD'S FEBRUARY 4 PRESS CONFERENCE.
GRUENEWALD REPORTED WULF HAD REACHED THE FOLLOWING
CONCLUSIONS FOLLOWING STUDY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:
OFFICIALS OF THE GDR POLICE ALONG THE TRANSIT ROUTES

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TO AND FROM BERLIN IN SEVERAL CASES STOPPED AND FINED
TRAVELERS FOR INFRINGEMENTS OF SPEED LIMITS OR ON
ACCOUNT OF OTHER TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS. ACCORDING TO THE

TRANSIT AGREEMENT, THE GDR POLICE HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ACT IN SUCH CASES. REPORTS FROM TRAVELERS WHOSE EFFECTS WERE GONE THROUGH ON THE WAY TO AND FROM BERLIN ARE NOT NOW AVAILABLE. THE TRANSIT COMMISSION WILL MEET AGAIN AT ITS REGULAR SESSION ON FEBRUARY 14. GRUENEWALD ADDED THAT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE BERLIN SENAT THE FRG FELT THAT A SPECIAL SESSION (OF THE TRANSIT COMMISSION) WAS NOT REQUIRED AT THIS TIME, ABOVE ALL SINCE STATE SECRETARY GAUS IS ALREADY GOING TO MEET NIER THURSDAY OF THIS WEEK. GRUENEWALD SAID GAUS WOULD USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW DISCUSSIONS
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WITH NIER ON THIS TOPIC.

5. (IN CONVERSATION WITH CHANCELLERY SOURCE AND IN THE FEBRUARY 4 BONN GROUP MEETING, WE LEARNED THAT DURING THE PRIVATE GAUS-NIER TALK, NIER RAISED THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY IN WEST BERLIN. HE COMMENTED THAT THE GDR WAS STUDYING WHETHER THE AGENCY'S EMPLOYEES WOULD BE PROHIBITED FROM USING THE TRANSIT ROUTES. GAUS REPLIED THAT THE THREE POWERS HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE PREVIOUS GDR STATEMENT IN THIS REGARD, AND BOTH THEY AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER ANY STEP BY THE GDR TO IMPLEMENT THIS THINKING A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF THE BERLIN AGREEMENT AND TRANSIT TRAFFIC AGREEMENT.)

6. GRUENEWALD CONTINUED HIS PRESS CONFERENCE WITH A FEW REMARKS CONCERNING EGON BAHR'S VISIT IN WASHINGTON. GRUENEWALD SAID BAHR, WHO HAD RETURNED FROM THE US SUNDAY EVENING, ALSO DISCUSSED QUESTIONS INVOLVING THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT AND THE QA WITH HIS AMERICAN COLLEAGUES. BAHR SAID, GRUENEWALD CONTINUED, THAT HE AGREED WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT THAT THIS SUBJECT REQUIRED NOT ONLY SPECIAL WATCHFULNESS BUT WAS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT FOR ANY ASSESSMENT OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE QA (SIMILAR REMARKS BY BAHR TO THIS EFFECT WERE REPORTED BY WEST GERMAN TELEVISION SATURDAY NIGHT). BAHR TOLD GRUENEWALD THAT HE ASSUMED - THAT THIS WHOLE COMPLEX (OF TRANSIT TRAFFIC PROBLEMS) WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF TALKS WHICH I MINIT KISSINGER WOULD HAVE WITH ET COLGROMYKO.

7. IN COMMENTING ON THE JANUARY 26 TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES (BERLIN 156), GRUENEWALD SAID HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS FROM THE BAVARIAN INTERIOR MINISTRY AND OTHER SOURCES. GRUENEWALD SAID THE GDR EXPLANATIONS OF EVENTS OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK (JANUARY 26) WERE PLAUSIBLE, BUT THE FRG CONSIDERED THE GDR ACTIONS TO BE CONTRARY TO THE

TRANSIT AGREEMENT. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE ALLIES HAD CLEARLY HAD GOOD CAUSE TO STRESS TO THE SOVIETS THE IMPORTANCE THEY PLACED ON A SMOOTH FUNCTIONING (TRANSIT) AGREEMENT.
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8. NATO BRIEFING: PER STATE 22254, WE RAISED SUBJECT OF BRIEFING FOR NATO ALLIES ON TRANSIT SITUATION SOON. OTHER REPS AGREED, AND IT WAS DECIDED IN VIEW OF NEED FOR EARLY ACTION IN NATO TO HOLD BONN GROUP MEETING FEBRUARY 5 TO DRAFT PRESENTATION (CONSISTING OF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FACTUAL SITUATION AND, BRIEFLY, THE ALLIED RESPONSE SO FAR, AND BONN GROUP'S ASSESSMENT OF THE EVENTS OF THE PAST TEN DAYS) FOR REFERRAL TO CAPITALS.
HILLENBRAND

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